

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9005

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, AS, ANZUS, XO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY--AUSTRALIAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JIM CAIRNS HELD TALKS

IN DELHI MAY 23-26 ON TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST INCLUDING

THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. CAIRNS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED

SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE INDOCHINA WAR AND CONCERN

AT THE ALLEGED SHIFT OF U.S. INTEREST FROM INDOCHINA TO THE

INDIAN OCEAN. MRS. GANDHI REPORTEDLY WITHHELD DIRECT CRITICISM

OF THE U.S. BUT CRITICIZED PAKISTAN AND CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AUSTRALIAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON

THE INDIAN OCEAN AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS DURING HIS TALKS WITH

MRS. GANDHI AND OTHER INDIAN LEADERS IN NEW DELHI MAY 23-26.

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THE AUSTRALIAN

DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD US SUBSEQUENTLY THAT CAIRNS'S VIEWS AS CONVEYED TO THE INDIANS WERE EXACTLY THOSE HE EXPRESSED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE MAY 26. ALTHOUGH WE ARE POUCHING A TEXT OF THAT CONFERENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND CANBERRA, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS SEEM TO BE AMONG THE MORE INTERESTING:

2. INDIAN OCEAN: CAIRNS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE END OF THE "ILL-FOUNDED AMERICAN INTERVENTION" IN INDOCHINA MEANS THEY (THE AMERICANS) "WILL WANT TO MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE" WHICH IN TURN "MAY MEAN PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." CAIRNS SAID THAT THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES OUGHT TO TELL THE AMERICANS THAT "LOOK, WE ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY--ALL OF US FROM AUSTRALIA TO ELSEWHERE--TO LOOK AFTER OUR OWN AFFAIRS. IF WE WANT YOUR HELP, WE WILL ASK YOU FOR IT. BUT LET US HAVE A GO AT LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN AFFAIRS FOR A WHILE." CAIRNS INDICATED THAT THE SHAH OF IRAN'S PROPOSALS FOR AN INDIAN OCEAN COMMON MARKET HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED, AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL A "GREAT" CONCEPT FROM WHICH MUCH WOULD COME IN THE FUTURE.

3. ANZUS PACT. CAIRNS ADMITTED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THERE IS SOME INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA'S WISH TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ASIA AND ITS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN ANZUS. BUT HE DID NOT THINK ANZUS WOULD PROVE A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE IN ACCOMPLISHING THE FORMER. HE ADDED THAT NEITHER PHAM VAN DONG NOR CHOU EN-LAI HAD EVER MENTIONED AUSTRALIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM.

4. FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: CAIRNS SAID THAT THE END OF THE INDOCHINA WAR IS "MORE STABILIZING THAN UNSTABILIZING." HE FORESAW NO "SUDDENLY FALLING DOMINOES." HE PREDICTED THAT THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO VIETNAMS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH VIETNAMESE INTERFERENCE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND THAT MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND WOULD BE LIKELY TO FOLLOW A "LESS ALIGNED" POLICY WITH THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME CAIRNS ANTICIPATED GREATER CHINESE ASSERTIVENESS, BUT MORE "BY VOICE THAN IN ANY MATERIAL SENSE."

5. THE INDIAN VIEWS: THE AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MAY 28 THAT MRS. GANDHI MADE CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CAIRNS THAT THE GOI WOULD MOVE CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY IN SEA IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE USSR OR THE PRC. (THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI LAST WEEK.) FURTHERMORE, THE GOI WAS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND BELIEVED IT HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD. (THE INDIAN PRESIDENT HAS JUST CONCLUDED A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO INDONESIA AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS EXPECTED TO PAY A RETURN VISIT AT AN UN-

SPECIFIED DATE.) ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, MRS. GANDHI DID EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CHINESE SUBVERSION IN NORTHEAST INDIA AND ITS CONTINUING ASSISTANCE TO THE NAGA AND MIZO TRIBESMEN. WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN, THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SCORED ISLAMABAD FOR TRYING TO USE "SOME BIG POWERS" TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE AGAINST INDIA. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN, SHE DID NOT DIRECTLY COMMENT ON THE U.S. TO CAIRNS AND PUT THE ONUS ON PAKISTAN FOR TRYING TO USE THE BIG POWERS RATHER THAN THE REVERSE.

6. CAIRNS WAS ASKED BY A NEWSMAN ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S "RACIALISM" IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. CAIRNS BLUNTLY REPLIED: "MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR THEIR OWN KIND. I HAVE NOTICED THAT HERE. BUT THERE IS A PREFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE ALREADY."
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